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Weekly Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

FURTHER FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF IMMUNIZATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

By ALLEN F. GILLIHAN, M.D., State District Health Officer.

In December 12 issue of this bulletin, some authentic information was given to show the protective value of immunization against smallpox.

If 160,000 soldiers of the American Army in the World War had died from the smallpox (actually there were but 5 such deaths), this frightful number would not have been as proportionately great as was the number who died from smallpox in the French Army in the War of 1869-70.

A few minutes spent with pen and paper in working out the rule of three will show that 163,000 bears to 3,703,191 (the total in U. S. Army in World War) about the same proportion that 23,359 (smallpox deaths in French Army in the War of 1869-70) bears to 534,000 (total of French Army in the War of 1869-70).

A person who is not well acquainted with all the facts of medical discovery may say "But medical science surely has discovered some cure for smallpox, and many cases must recover today that would have died under the treatment of 1869-70." Unfortunately, this is not true; notwithstanding the many very brilliant discoveries which have been made in the treatment of numerous diseases during the past fifty years, nothing has been discovered regarding the treatment of smallpox. We may attempt to satisfy ourselves with the thought that we are sure we can give these severe cases better

care today than the science of medicine could offer fifty years ago. That is, we think we know much better how to treat the various symptoms as they arise. But on the contrary, this also is false; a person contracting a vicious strain of smallpox stands just as much chance of dying today as he did in 1869-70.

The only thing of value that has been worked out is that AN IMMUNE PERSON CAN NOT TAKE SMALLPOX WHILE HE REMAINS IMMUNE, and this applies to the mildest forms of the disease as well as to the severest types. But if he has neglected to keep his immunity up to par and is unfortunate enough to acquire the disease, that disease runs its course uninfluenced and it either burns itself out and he gets better, or it destroys him.

It is true that a person who was vaccinated long years before may *not* retain enough immunity to prevent him from getting the disease, but still retain enough immunity to modify an attack; that is, to make it lighter. It seems to me to be a very short-sighted philosophy on which to base one's conduct of life—to rely on the uncertainty of retaining enough effect from something done in childhood to make lighter a killing disease which one may get later in life when he could most easily have prevented that disease altogether by keeping his immunity up to par.

Today we may talk in millions and billions, but one doubts very much

whether any person possesses the mentality that will enable him to comprehend even such a relatively small number as one hundred and sixty-three thousand, as the following example will show.

If one stands on a hill on a clear moonless and cloudless night the whole sky is spangled with stars and he says to himself "not thousands, but literally millions of stars." Now it happens that all the stars, even those away beyond unaided vision, down to those visible only with the aid of the very largest telescope, have been accurately catalogued by astronomers. The faintest star that can be seen by the unaided eye, with the keenest vision, under the most favorable circumstances, is of the seventh magnitude. as astronomers reckon size, the brightest stars being of the first magnitude.

In the seventh edition of the physical tables published by the Smithsonian Institution the number of stars in the whole sky is totalled by magnitude as follows:

1st magnitude	-----	11
2nd magnitude	-----	27
3rd magnitude	-----	73
4th magnitude	-----	189
5th magnitude	-----	650
6th magnitude	-----	2200
7th magnitude	-----	6600
Total	-----	9750
		stars to 7th magnitude

But we can see only half of the sky at any one time; the other half is below the horizon. That is, by one possessing the very keenest vision, less than five thousand stars can be seen at any one time, and 163,000 is over thirty-two times this number. This helps one to realize what dreadful havoc smallpox can make among the unprotected and among those who have foolishly allowed the protective value of their immunity to run down.

Nothing protects one from the disease but immunization against it, and when this has been neglected nothing prevents the disease in any particular case from running its course.

County Cares For Health Of Carmel.

The administration of the public health of Carmel-by-the-Sea has been taken over by the Monterey County Health Department, Dr. R. C. Main, Health Officer.

Interstate Motor Traffic Demands Attention.

Inspection of interstate traffic for the prevention of communicable disease and the provision of adequate sanitary facilities for tourists are problems that are demanding the immediate attention of our country, according to an article in the March *Hygeia*.

The fact that 100,000 people toured into Florida by motor in one season gives an idea of the seriousness of the situation. With the coming of spring, this condition will become general throughout the country.

Obviously, the health and business interests of a community must be protected, but at the same time the health of the tourist demands consideration. The sanitary problem of railroad transportation has been admirably handled. Some means must now be found to handle this new problem in motor transportation.

COMMERCIAL TOURIST CAMPS.

Many communities have established tourist camps on their outskirts with a view to offering free to tourists a place where they may stop. Tourists thus avoid polluted drinking water, and camps are laid out in such a manner as to provide properly for disposal of sewage.

In other communities persons who might with a little more financial backing be conducting permanent hotels open poorly equipped tourist camps, which are conducted for such financial profit as may be derived from them. Obviously, here the commercial interests are dominant, and the owners of such camps frequently save on facilities but endanger the health of both the tourists and the community.

THE MOTOR TRAMP.

Finally, as might have been expected, there has developed also a species known as the motor tramp, who takes to the road in fair weather, his entire wealth consisting of his clothing and the vehicle in which he travels. This species confidently expects to live off the community through which he passes while leading his merry and lackadaisical existence.

New times and new customs create new problems in community hygiene. More and more we realize that many of man's illnesses arise from contacts with his fellow man. The automobile and particularly the vogue of touring have created many legal, criminal and health problems, which the present generation will have to solve.

Roaches Dislike Air and Sunlight.

Roaches are a menace to health because of their insanitary habits, says Prof. W. B. Herms, of the University of California, in the March *Hygeia*. They are additionally disgusting because of the offensive odor that they leave on everything with which they have come in contact.

Roaches are particularly fond of sweet and starchy things. They have been known to damage hat bands, shoe linings and book bindings.

These pests are night prowlers and inhabit dark, warm places. Air and light are essential in ridding a place of them. Old-fashioned sink cupboards in dark, warm kitchens are most commonly invaded by them. Open spaces in which sunlight may freely enter will never harbor roaches.

Sodium fluoride, blown from a dust gun or sprinkled over shelves, tables, floors, runways and hiding places of the roaches, is the most effective and simple way of exterminating them. They will immediately rush more or less blindly out of their retreats and in a few hours be dead. The dead or paralyzed insects can be swept up and burned. In this way a place may be entirely rid of them in twenty-four hours. Powdered borax may also be used. Either of these is just as effective as and much safer to use than hydrocyanic acid gas.



Calipatria Has New Health Officer.

Dr. Francis F. Malone has been appointed health officer of the city of Calipatria in Imperial County to succeed Dr. L. L. Lindsay.



Silicosis Bulletin For Free Distribution.

Physicians may secure a special bulletin on silicosis by applying to the Director, Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, New York State Department of Labor, 124 East 28th street, New York City. This publication comprises a resume of the literature of this disease of the lungs, "which is due to the inhalation and accumulation of minute particles of silica-laden dust, over varying periods of time and in various occupations."



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

101 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland

4, Butte County 1, Fresno County 5, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 9, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 42, Manhattan Beach 1, Redondo Beach 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 2, Sacramento 1, Rialto 1, Chula Vista 2, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Healdsburg 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Measles.

107 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 4, Oakland 8, Pittsburg 5, Fresno County 3, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 11, Whittier 1, San Francisco 55, Merced 2, Monterey County 1, Riverside 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 7.

Scarlet Fever.

173 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Oakland 12, Butte County 4, Chico 1, Fresno County 2, Eureka 2, Callexico 1, Kern County 11, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 10, Burbank 2, Culver City 1, El Monte 3, Glendale 2, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 37, Pomona 2, Redondo Beach 4, Maywood 5, Monterey County 1, Orange County 2, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 2, Auburn 1, Corona 5, Sacramento 3, Rialto 2, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, San Francisco 11, Stockton 2, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 6, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 3, Sunnyvale 1, Solano County 1, Rio Vista 6, Red Bluff 1, Santa Paula 1.

Smallpox.

160 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Oakland 14, El Dorado County 1, Placerville 6, Imperial County 2, Brawley 16, Kern County 5, Los Angeles County 18, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 72, San Fernando 1, Whittier 1, Placer County 3, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 3, San Francisco 5, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Siskiyou County 1, Stanislaus County 2, Woodland 1, California 1.

Whooping Cough.

55 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 3, Berkeley 4, Oakland 9, Fresno County 1, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 5, San Gabriel 1, Merced County 2, Monterey County 7, Corona 1, San Francisco 5, Redwood City 1, Santa Clara County 3, Ventura County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 1.

Typhoid Fever.

5 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 1, Orange County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

2 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1.

Epidemic Encephalitis.

5 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 2, Sacramento 1.

*From reports received on March 8th and 9th, for the week ending March 6th.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS, FEBRUARY, 1926.

Disease	0-1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Adult
Chickenpox.....	40	210	860	62	36	13	24	12	5	4	6
Diphtheria.....	12	87	144	81	28	21	43	20	12	2	11
German Measles.....	2	6	6								1
Malaria.....			1		2	1					
Measles.....	22	54	120	14	7	1	1				6
Mumps.....	8	36	466	333	85	31	31	17	6		73
Pneumonia (lobar).....	18	27	31	19	20	17	37	36	42	75	42
Scarlet Fever.....	15	119	257	92	25	24	26	12	1	1	12
Smallpox.....	20	28	82	55	67	57	105	101	69	58	18
Typhoid Fever.....	1		10	10	4	2	5	5	2	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	24	57	91	13	1	1		1			1
Anthrax.....											
Epidemic Meningitis.....	3	6	4	5	7	6	5	3			
Dysentery (Bacillary).....											
Erysipelas.....	6		5		1		7	3	8	8	2
Gonorrhea.....		5	3	5	50	105	116	34	8	6	43
Leprosy.....							1	1			
Pellagra.....								1		1	
Poliomyelitis.....	2	7	2	1	3						
Syphilis.....	1	1	4	8	34	76	140	126	63	32	12
Tetanus.....				1							
Trachoma.....		1	4	5		1	2	2			
Encephalitis.....	1		1		1		2			1	
Typhus.....						1					

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1926				1925			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 6 received by Mar. 9	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 7 received by Mar. 10
	Feb. 13	Feb. 20	Feb. 27		Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	469	491	464	508	385	368	442	508
Diphtheria.....	96	120	130	101	137	126	122	120
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	2	1	0	5	1	1	2	3
Epidemic Meningitis.....	12	7	11	2	1	1	0	2
Gonococcus infection.....	87	84	64	107	132	211	105	68
Influenza.....	527	308	393	136	91	160	113	120
Leprosy.....	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Malaria.....	1	1	3	4	1	1	0	1
Measles.....	89	108	101	107	38	60	49	72
Mumps.....	292	308	413	264	163	248	222	236
Pneumonia (lobar).....	144	71	87	77	147	95	80	54
Poliomyelitis.....	6	4	2	3	5	3	2	4
Scarlet Fever.....	186	147	169	173	151	151	146	169
Smallpox.....	207	132	133	160	164	184	183	141
Syphilis.....	137	97	88	138	123	212	137	123
Tuberculosis.....	168	208	123	212	254	288	132	191
Typhoid Fever.....	13	9	6	5	6	8	3	14
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	63	51	59	55	211	149	240	270
Totals.....	2499	2147	2249	2058	2010	2266	1979	2096

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